

October 20, 1940

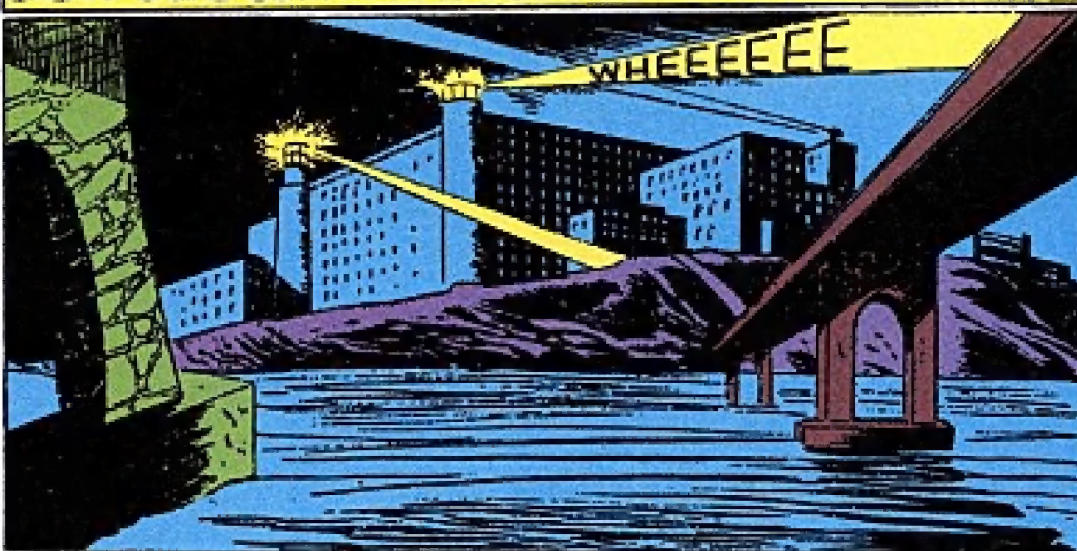
THE WORLD BELIEVES DENNY COLT TO BE DEAD DENNY COLT IS IN REALITY THE **SPiRiT**, FAMOUS CRIME FIGHTER, WHO STALKS THE CRIMINALS BEYOND THE LAW...SEEKING NO GLORY, UNHAMPERED BY CONVENTIONS, THE **SPiRiT** SECRETLY AIDS THE POLICE IN SOCIETY'S NEVER-ENDING WAR ON CRIME...ONLY POLICE COMMISSIONER DOLAN KNOWS HIS TRUE IDENTITY.....

THE SPiRiT

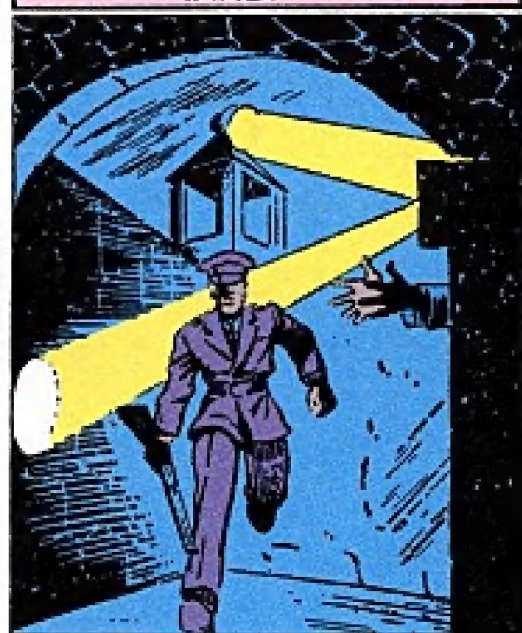
BY
WILL EISNER



WITH THE SUDDEN FEROCITY OF AN AIR RAID WARNING, THE SIRENS SOMEWHERE WITHIN THE WALLS OF "STATE PEN" PRISON BREAK INTO A NERVE-SHATTERING WAIL...ALL AT ONCE THE GREY WALLS ARE ALIVE WITH MEN...SEARCHLIGHTS PROBE THE NIGHT...IT IS A PRISON BREAK! OGRE GORAN HAS ESCAPED ! ! !



A GUARD SPRINTS ACROSS THE YARD..



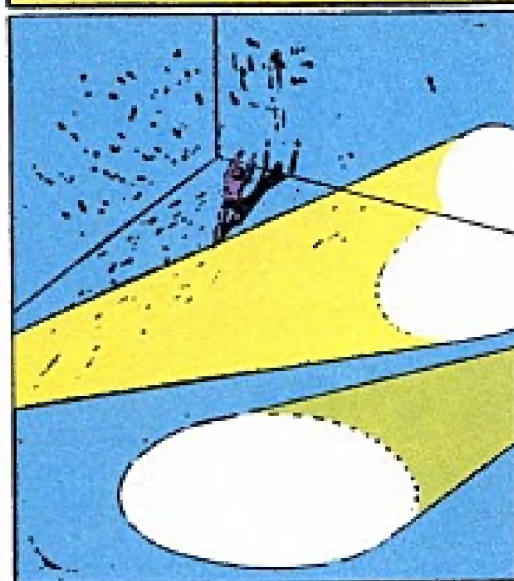
A MOMENT LATER...



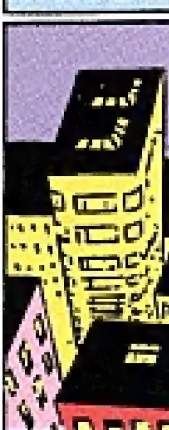
THE GUARD TURNS..



DARTING WITH INCREDIBLE SPEED BETWEEN THE BATTERY OF BEAMS, THE FIGURE REACHES THE WALL..



ACROSS THE RIVER IN THE CHEERFUL WARMTH OF A BIG CITY APARTMENT.



NOW, MARY, STOP YOUR FRETTING. THERE'S NO REASON FOR GORAN TO COME HERE... HE KNOWS YOU MARRIED ME!



THAT'S JUST IT, DEAR!

I'LL NEVER FORGET HIS EYES WHEN I FOUND OUT HE WAS A-A CROOK, AND TOLD HIM I'D NOT MARRY HIM!



ALL HE SAID WAS, "I ALWAYS GET WHAT I WANT, MARY.... ALWAYS!"



NOW NOW, HE WON'T GET ACROSS THE RIVER, DEAR.

THE RADIO JUST ANNOUNCED THAT A DRAGNET IS BEING SPREAD!



NEVER BELIEVE WHAT YOU HEAR ABOUT ME! TURN OFF THE LIGHT..NOW!



OGRE!

THAT'S BETTER...GLAD TO SEE ME, MARY? I'VE COME FOR YOU.. TAKE YOU WITH ME TO SOUTH AMERICA!



NO, OGRE. I'M MARRIED NOW!

FOR A MOMENT THE PASSING BEAM OF AN AUTO IN THE STREET LIGHTS UP OGRE'S FACE.



I ALWAYS GET WHAT I WANT, MARY.. ALWAYS!



NO..NO! PLEASE STOP! FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE!

AS HER HUSBAND SLUMPS LIFELESS TO THE FLOOR, MARY'S FACE GROWS HARD.. HER EYES GLEAM WITH SAVAGE FURY.



Y-YOU BEAST! YOU HORRIBLE FIEND!

WITH THE SPEED OF SUDDEN MADNESS, MARY LEAPS...SEIZES A LARGE CAN OF ALCOHOL...



HIS ALCOHOL-SOAKED CLOTHES QUICKLY BURST INTO FLAMES... IN A WILD FRENZY HE LEAPS ABOUT FRANTICALLY, SETTING THE ENTIRE HOUSE AFIRE.



DRENCHED WITH THE LIQUID, HE PURSUES HER FROM ROOM TO ROOM.



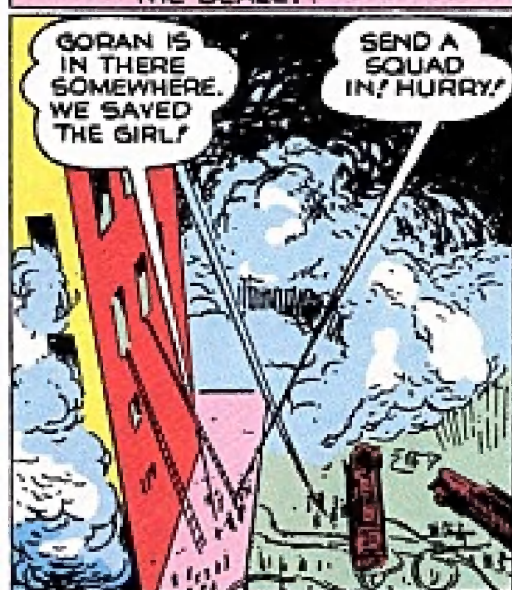
THE HOUSE NOW A BLAZING INFERNO, GORAN REACHES THE BATHROOM... WITH BLISTERED FINGERS HE TURNS THE KNOB OF A SHOWER.



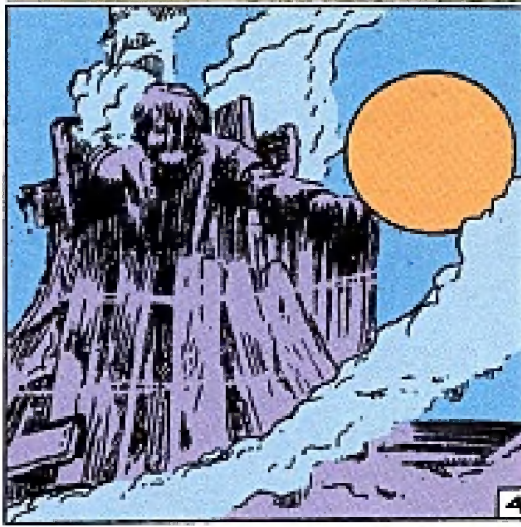
AND FLINGS HIMSELF UNDER ITS EXTINGUISHING STREAM.



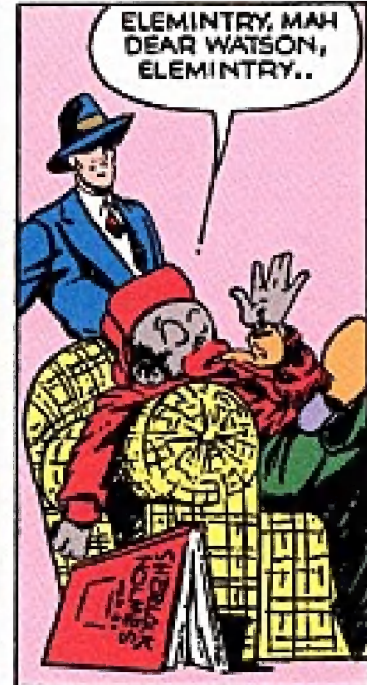
THE POLICE AND FIREMEN SOON ARRIVE AND RESCUE MARY FROM THE BLAZE.



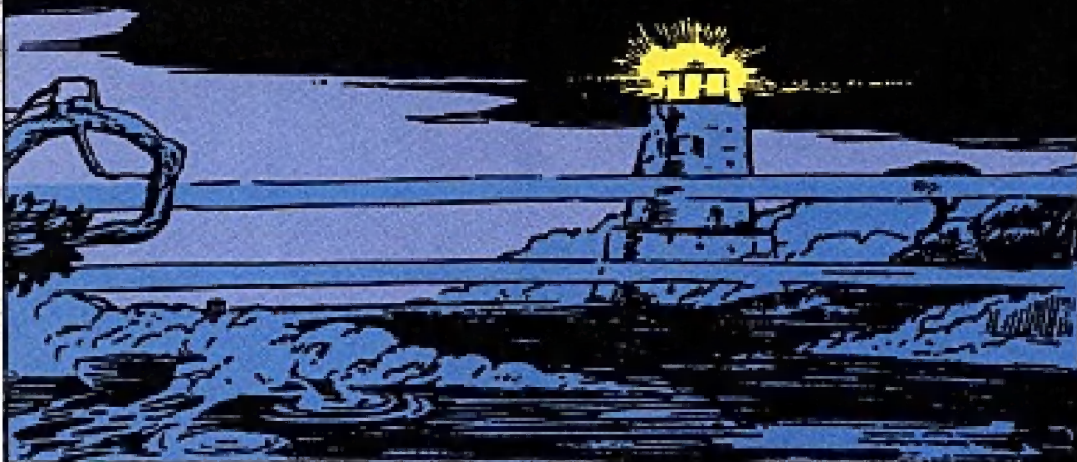
BUT AS THE WAIL OF THE ENGINES DIES IN THE DISTANCE, A HORRIBLE CHARRED FORM RISES FROM THE WRECKAGE AND STUMBLES AWAY INTO THE RISING FOG.



SEVERAL DAYS LATER UNDER WILDWOOD CEMETERY WHERE THE SPIRIT AND HIS FAITHFUL FRIEND EBONY PLAN AND EXPERIMENT ON NEW WAYS OF COMBATING CRIME.



AT POINT CAPE...IT IS DARK...THE WIND HAS DIED DOWN AND THE MOON HIDES BEHIND A BLACK CLOUD...THE WHISPER OF MUFFLED OARS FLOATS ACROSS THE PLACID WATERS AS A BOAT GLIDES GHOST-LIKE THROUGH THE MIST.



AT THE FOOT OF THE LIGHTHOUSE.



HA HA HA! A VISITOR! THE SPIRIT NO LESS!

HAW HAW YOURSELF! PUT AWAY THAT GUN, OGRE GORAN, THE GAME'S UP!



WHERE IS MARY COWAN?

OH, UPSTAIRS, BEING COMFORTED BY MY WIFE OLGA!



YOU SEE, SHE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN BEAR TO LOOK AT ME...WHEN MARY GETS USED TO ME, WELL, I'LL KILL OLGA AND MARRY MARY!



A VERY NICE IDEA, BUT I'M GOING TO INTERRUPT YOUR PLANS...COME, MARY!



NAUGHTY NAUGHTY, MR. SPIRIT! HA HA HA!



